

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A pipe cutter comprising:
 - a rotary head having an axis of rotation;
 - a housing gear coaxial with said rotary head, such that said housing gear and said rotary head have a common axis of rotation;
 - a pipe slot extending into said rotary head and said housing gear;
 - a pipe cradle within said pipe slot for receiving a pipe;
 - a cutting wheel associated with said rotary head to revolve about the axis of rotation of said rotary head when said rotary head is driven about its axis of rotation;
 - a primary drive source operatively connected to said housing gear to rotate said housing gear and rotary head about their common axis of rotation, wherein said housing gear has teeth and said primary drive source is operatively connected to said housing gear through a gear system including a slot-engaging gear having teeth keyed to said teeth of said housing gear, said slot-engaging gear being sized such that one rotation of said slot-engaging gear results in one rotation of said housing gear, said slot-engaging gear including a protrusion that extends beyond said teeth of said slot-engaging gear and engages a portion of said pipe slot once during each rotation of said slot-engaging gear and housing gear; and
 - a spring member predisposing said cutting wheel to extend into said pipe slot absent a counter force acting against said spring member, such that, when a pipe is placed into said pipe slot and said rotary head is rotated about its axis of rotation, said spring member forces said cutting wheel against the pipe so that said cutting wheel cuts the pipe as it revolves about the axis of rotation of said rotary head.
2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~The A pipe cutter of claim 1, wherein said spring member is~~
comprising:

a rotary head having an axis of rotation and a substantially radially extending wheel slot;

a housing gear coaxial with said rotary head, such that said housing gear and said rotary head have a common axis of rotation;

a pipe slot extending into said rotary head and said housing gear;

a pipe cradle within said pipe slot for receiving a pipe;

a cutting wheel extending from a shaft retained within said wheel slot of said rotary head, said cutting wheel and shaft revolving about the axis of rotation of said rotary head when said rotary head is driven about its axis of rotation;

a plate spring member having a slot therein for receiving a portion of said cutting wheel, said plate spring member contacting said shaft to urge said shaft radially inwardly in said wheel slot absent a counter force acting against said plate spring member, such that, when a pipe is placed into said pipe slot and said rotary head is rotated about its axis of rotation in a cutting direction, said plate spring member forces said cutting wheel against the pipe so that said cutting wheel cuts the pipe as it revolves about the axis of rotation of said rotary head; and

a retraction hook that selectively engages said shaft during rotation of said rotary head in a retracting direction and, during rotation of said cutting wheel in said cutting direction, ratchets about a pivot pin.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently amended) The pipe cutter of claim [[8]] 5, wherein, when said retraction hook engages said shaft, continued rotation of said rotary head in said retracting direction causes said shaft to be urged radially outwardly in said wheel slot.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) ~~The A pipe cutter of claim 10, further~~ comprising:
 - a rotary head having an axis of rotation and a substantially radially extending wheel slot;
 - a housing gear coaxial with said rotary head, such that said housing gear and said rotary head have a common axis of rotation;
 - a pipe slot extending into said rotary head and said housing gear;
 - a pipe cradle within said pipe slot for receiving a pipe;
 - a cutting wheel extending from a shaft retained within said wheel slot of said rotary head, said cutting wheel and shaft revolving about the axis of rotation of said rotary head when said rotary head is driven about its axis of rotation;
 - a plate spring member having a slot therein for receiving a portion of said cutting wheel, wherein said rotary head provides an external plate spring surface, said wheel slot opens to said external plate spring surface, and said plate spring member is fixed to said rotary head to extend along said external plate spring surface in a manner that biases said plate spring in the direction of lying flush with said external plate spring surface said plate spring member contacting said shaft to urge said shaft radially inwardly in said wheel slot absent a counter force acting against

said plate spring member, such that, when a pipe is placed into said pipe slot and said rotary head is rotated about its axis of rotation in a cutting direction, said plate spring member forces said cutting wheel against the pipe so that said cutting wheel cuts the pipe as it revolves about the axis of rotation of said rotary head;

a retraction plate extending from said plate spring member; and

a retraction rod that selectively engages said retraction plate during rotation of said rotary head in a retracting direction.

12. (Previously amended) The pipe cutter of claim 11, wherein, when said retraction rod engages said retraction plate, continued rotation of said rotary head in said retracting direction causes said plate spring member to be urged away from lying flush with said external plate spring surface.
13. (Original) The pipe cutter of claim 1, wherein said pipe cradle includes at least two freewheeling support rollers that extend into said pipe slot.
14. (Original) The pipe cutter of claim 13, wherein said pipe cradle includes an adjustable block that may be selectively set at varying positions within said pipe slot.
15. (Original) The pipe cutter of claim 14, wherein said adjustable block includes a plurality of pipe-engaging surfaces.
16. (Allowed) A pipe cutter comprising:
 - a rotary head having an axis of rotation;
 - a housing gear having teeth and being coaxial with said rotary head portion, such that said housing gear and said rotary head portion have a common axis of rotation;

a pipe slot extending into said rotary head portion and said housing gear;
a pipe cradle within said pipe slot for receiving a pipe;
a cutting wheel associated with said rotary head portion; and
a slot-engaging gear having teeth keyed to said teeth of said housing gear, said slot-engaging gear being ~~and~~ sized such that one rotation of said slot-engaging gear results in one rotation of said housing gear, said slot-engaging gear including a protrusion that extends beyond said teeth of said slot-engaging gear and engages a portion of said pipe slot once during each rotation of said slot-engaging gear and housing gear.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)